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ABSTRACT

As the federal government provides funding to wire classrooms to the Internet, software companies market educational programs even for preschoolers, and school administrators cut funding in other areas to make room for new computers, it is time to examine the impact of computer use on children. Presented in three parts, this book examines the advantages and drawbacks of computer use for children at home and at school, exploring its effects on children's health, creativity, brain development, and social and emotional growth. Part 1 of the book discusses the current situation in schools, homes, and home schools; reviews the basics of educational computing; and offers guidelines for technology choices. Part 2 examines personal issues in technology use, including physical health, intellectual and brain development, and the social, emotional, and other personal aspects of children and teens using computers. Part 3 describes practical applications that illustrate appropriate and inappropriate ways to use new learning technologies with different age groups. The book concludes by noting that with thought, planning, and good sense, adults should be able to help children to develop minds that are able to deal with the challenges of the future. Also, the real-life values in the lives parents structure for their children will determine the kind of world they will inhabit. Each chapter contains references. (KB)

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